AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #106

BOOK ONE: WATER
CHAPTER SIX: "Imprisoned"

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ACT ONE

EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

Aang and Katara are setting up a modest CAMP in a heavily wooded area. Appa is asleep, snoring. Momo is resting on Appa's head. Sokka enters the camp from the forest carrying a SATCHEL.

AANG
Great, you're back. What's for dinner?

Sokka pulls various nuts from his satchel.

SOKKA
We've got a few options. First, round nuts. And some kind of oval shaped nuts. And some rock shaped nuts... that might just be rocks.

Sokka dumps the contents of the satchel out in front of everyone.

SOKKA (CONT'D)
Dig in.

They all look at the nuts, unimpressed.

KATARA
Seriously, what else you got?

Sokka shrugs, "This is it." Momo grabs a nut and tries to bite it open. No luck. He jumps over to a rock and tries to crack the nut open. Just as the nut hits the rock, an ear-splitting BOOM rocks through the camp.

SOKKA
What was that?

Momo looks at the nut, stunned. Experimenting, he drops the NUT onto the rock. Just as it hits, another huge BOOM. Momo, horrified at the nut, hides behind Appa.

AANG
It's coming from over there!

Aang and Katara rush off toward the sound.

SOKKA
Shouldn't we run away from huge booms, not toward them?

Momo CHITTERS a sympathetic response. Sokka runs after Aang and Katara.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

Aang, Katara, and Sokka hide behind some trees. They are watching HARU, a fourteen-year old Earthbender boy. He is standing in front of a rock cliff that has a pass dividing it in two. He lifts a BOULDER from the face of the cliff and floats it in front of his face. Haru then shoots his fist toward the BOULDER, exploding it into hundreds of smaller rock pieces.

KATARA
(whispering)
An Earthbender.

AANG
Let’s go meet him.

SOKKA
He looks dangerous, so we better approach cautiously.

Katara simply walks toward Haru from the cover of the trees.

KATARA
(calling out)
Hello there!

Haru stops and turns toward Katara. The BOULDER in front of him drops. He doesn’t say anything.

KATARA (CONT’D)
I’m Katara. What’s your name?

Haru turns and immediately runs through the rock pass. He tosses several BOULDERS behind him to block their progress.

AANG
(calling after him)
Nice to meet you!

KATARA
I just wanted to say hi.

AANG
Hey, that guy’s gotta be running somewhere-- maybe we’re near a village... and I bet that village has a market.

KATARA
Which means no nuts for dinner!

SOKKA
(offended)
Hey, I worked hard to get those nuts!
(beat)
Nah. I hate ‘em too.

EST. SHOT - VILLAGE - DAY

Aang, Katara, and Sokka enter a small village situated at the base of a LARGE AND BUSY MINE. Aang is bartering with a villager.

AANG
Great hat! I’ll trade you some nuts for it.

Katara sees Haru enter a village store.

KATARA
Hey.

INT. VILLAGE STORE - DAY

HARU enters the store. A MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN works the counter.

HARU
Hi Mom.

HARU’S MOTHER
Where have you been, Haru? You’re late. Get started on your chores.

Katara enters and recognizes Haru.

KATARA
Hey, you’re that kid. Why did you run away before?

Haru is taken aback at seeing Katara again.

HARU
Uh, you must have me confused with some other kid.

Sokka and Aang enter.

AANG
No she doesn’t. We saw you Earthbending.

At mention of “Earthbending”, Haru and his mother freeze. Haru’s mother slams the SHOP WINDOW shut.

HARU’S MOTHER
They saw you doing what?

HARU
They’re crazy, Mom! I mean, look at how they’re dressed.

HARU’S MOTHER
You know how dangerous that is! You know what would happen if they caught you Earthbending!

Suddenly, there’s a loud knocking.

FIRE NATION CAPTAIN
Open up!

Through a crack in the window, Sokka sees a FIRE NATION CAPTAIN standing in front of the store. Sokka’s eyes widen.

SOKKA
(whispers)
Fire Nation! Act natural!

The three immediately enter the most UNNATURAL POSITIONS imaginable. Sokka stands stick straight, like a STATUE. Katara starts maniacally shovelling BERRIES into her mouth. Aang tries to lean nonchalantly against the counter and knocks over several JARS OF JAM. Haru’s mother opens the shop window and glares at the Fire Nation captain.

HARU’S MOTHER
What do you want? I’ve already paid you this week.

FIRE NATION CAPTAIN
The tax just doubled. And we wouldn’t want an accident, would we? Fire - it’s sometimes so hard to control.

The Captain holds up his hand, which BLAZES WITH FLAME. Haru’s mother opens a box from underneath the counter. Inside are a number of copper coins and a few silver coins.

FIRE NATION CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
You can keep the copper ones.

She hands him the silver coins. The Captain gives everyone a once over and leaves.

SOKKA
Nice guy. How long has the Fire Nation been here?

HARU’S MOTHER
Five years. Fire Lord Ozai uses our town’s coal mines to fuel his ships.

HARU
They’re thugs. They steal from us. And everyone here is too much of a coward to do anything about it.

HARU’S MOTHER
Quiet, Haru. Don’t talk like that.

KATARA
But Haru’s an Earthbender. He can help!

HARU’S MOTHER
Earthbending is forbidden. It’s caused nothing but misery for this village. He must never use his abilities.

KATARA
How can you say that? Haru has a gift! Asking him not to Earthbend is like asking me not to Waterbend. It’s a part of who we are.

HARU’S MOTHER
(shakes head dismissively)
You don’t understand.

KATARA
I understand that Haru can help you fight back. What can the Fire Nation do to you that they haven’t done already?

HARU’S MOTHER
They could take Haru away. Like they took his father.

Katara is shocked by this revelation.

EXT. BARN - DAY

Haru is showing Aang, Katara, and Sokka a BARN in the outskirts of the village, which is next to Haru’s family’s COTTAGE. Aang ushers Appa into the barn.

HARU
My mom said you can sleep here tonight. But you should leave in the morning.

AANG
Thanks. I’ll make sure Appa doesn’t eat all your hay.

Aang and Sokka head into the barn. Haru turns to walk away. Katara follows him.

KATARA
I’m sorry about what I said earlier. I didn’t know about your father.

HARU
That’s okay. It’s funny, the way you were talking back in the store-- it reminded me of him.

KATARA
Thanks.

HARU
My father was very courageous. When the Fire Nation invaded, he and the other Earthbenders were outnumbered ten to one, but they fought back anyway.

KATARA
He sounds like a great man.

HARU
After the attack, they rounded up my father and every other Earthbender, and took them away. We haven’t seen them since.

KATARA
So that’s why you hide your Earthbending.

HARU
Yeah. The problem is... the only way I can feel close to my father now, is when I practice my bending. He taught me everything I know.

KATARA
See this necklace?

Katara shows Haru her NECKLACE.

KATARA (CONT’D)
My mother gave it to me.

HARU
It’s beautiful.

KATARA
I lost my mother in a Fire Nation raid. This necklace is all I have left of her.

Haru takes a long look at the NECKLACE.

HARU
It’s not enough, is it?

KATARA
No.

Beat. Suddenly, Katara and Haru hear a low RUMBLING, followed by a cry of DISTRESS.

OLD MAN
Uh, help.

HARU
The mine!

They take off running towards the mines.

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE - SECONDS LATER

Katara and Haru come upon a GNARLED OLD MAN trapped in the entrance to a mine. The mine’s ceiling has collapsed, and his lower body is trapped by sand, dirt, and rock.

OLD MAN
Help me!

Haru and Katara try to pull the old man out. He won’t budge.

KATARA
It’s not working. We have to get help!

HARU
There’s no time. Pull harder!

Haru and Katara pull even harder. Nothing.

KATARA
Haru, there’s a way you can help him!

HARU
I can’t.

KATARA
Please, there’s no one around to see you. It’s the only way!

Haru looks at Katara and nods. He raises his hand, concentrates, and pulls. The sand, rock, and dirt fly out of the mine entrance and scatter over the ground. The old man is left lying in the entrance to the mine.

KATARA (CONT’D)
Haru! You did it!

Katara hugs him. Haru smiles. Then Haru and Katara help the old man up.

INT. BARN - NIGHT

Aang, Katara, and Sokka are bunking down for the night. Appa and Momo are now in the barn.

KATARA
It was so brave of Haru to use his Earthbending to help that old man.

AANG
You must have really inspired him.

KATARA
I guess so.

SOKKA
Everyone should get some sleep. We’re leaving at dawn.

KATARA
Dawn? Can’t we sleep in for once?

SOKKA
Absolutely not. This village is crawling with Fire Nation troops. If they discover you’re here, Aang, we’ll be eating fireballs for breakfast. Good night.

KATARA
I’d rather eat fireballs than nuts.

SOKKA
Good night!

Katara and Aang GIGGLE. Everyone tries to get some sleep.

EXT. HARU’S HOME - NIGHT

Several BOOTS stomp toward Haru’s home. It’s a group of FIRE NATION SOLDIERS, including the FIRE NATION CAPTAIN from earlier. They approach a door and knock loudly on it. Have they somehow discovered Aang? The door slowly opens - reveal it is HARU, half awake. The GNARLED OLD MAN man from the mine steps forward.

OLD MAN
That’s him. That’s the Earthbender.

The Fire Nation guards move towards Haru to take him away as we FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. HARU’S HOME - DAWN

Katara opens up the barn door and emerges into the morning light. She stretches and starts to fill a POT with water from a nearby PUMP. She notices HARU’S MOTHER on the porch. Haru’s mother looks up at Katara. Katara sees that she’s crying. Realizing what’s happened, Katara drops her WATER POT.

INT. BARN - LATER

Aang and Sokka are waking up.

KATARA
They took him. They took Haru away.

AANG
What?

KATARA
The old man turned him into the Fire Nation. It’s all my fault. I forced him into Earthbending.

SOKKA
Slow down, Katara. When did this happen?

KATARA
Haru’s mother said they came for him at midnight.

SOKKA
Then it’s too late to track him. He’s long gone.

KATARA
We don’t need to track him. The Fire Nation is going to take me right to Haru.

AANG
And why would they do that?

KATARA
Because they’re going to arrest me for Earthbending.

Aang and Sokka look at Katara, stunned.

EXT. MINE ENTRANCE - DAY

Sokka rolls a BOULDER on top of a VENT. Katara is helping. Aang is playing with a BUTTERFLY. The shaft is near a well-travelled village road.

SOKKA
I thought you were crazy at first, Katara but this might work. There are ventilation shafts throughout these mines. All Aang has to do is send an air current from that vent, to this one right here. The boulder levitates and... tah-dah! Fake Earthbending.

KATARA
Aang, did you get all that?

AANG
(distracted)
Sure, sure. I got it.

SOKKA
Do you remember your cue?

AANG
Yeah, yeah, just relax. You’re taking all the fun out of this.

SOKKA
By “this” do you mean intentionally being captured by an army of ruthless Firebenders?

AANG
Exactly. That’s fun stuff!

Two FIRE NATION SOLDIERS appear on the road.

SOKKA
Here they come. Get in your places.

Aang skirts around a corner, where we see another VENT. He is out of view of the road. When the soldiers get within hearing distance, Katara and Sokka intentionally BUMP INTO EACH OTHER.

NOTE: During their conversation Katara and Sokka use the loud voices and over-enunciation of bad actors, suggesting they’ve set up this whole exchange.

SOKKA (CONT’D)
Get out of my way, pipsqueak!

KATARA
How dare you call me pipsqueak, you giant-eared cretin!

SOKKA
What did you call me?

KATARA
A giant-eared cretin! Look at those things. Do herds of animals use them for shade?

SOKKA
You better back off!
(then, in a more regular voice)
Seriously, back off.

KATARA
I will not back off! I bet elephants get together and make fun of how large YOUR ears are.

SOKKA
That’s it! You’re going down!

KATARA
I’ll show you who’s boss - Earthbending style!

At “Earthbending style” Katara shoots her hands toward the BOULDER. Nothing happens.

KATARA (CONT'D)
I said, Earthbending style!

ANGLE ON: Aang, who’s still messing around with the butterfly. He suddenly realizes his mistake. He shoots a GUST OF WIND through the VENT he is standing over. The gust of wind travels through the shaft.

ANGLE ON: the boulder which rises into the air revealing Momo standing behind it.

FIRE NATION SOLDIER
(shocked)
That Lemur, he’s Earthbending!

SOKKA
No, you idiot, it’s the girl!

PAN TO: Katara near the boulder, pretending to Earthbend.

FIRE NATION SOLDIER
Oh... of course.

SOKKA
(stagey)
I’ll hold her!

Sokka grabs Katara by the shoulders and whispers to her.

SOKKA (CONT’D)
You’ve got twelve hours to find
Haru, we’ll be right behind you.

Katara is grabbed by the soldiers and escorted away. Sokka watches her go.

SOKKA (CONT’D)
Momo you have some big ears.

Momo CHITTERS reassuringly.

EXT. PORT TOWN - DAY

Katara is being removed from a wagon by two Fire Nation soldiers. She has her hands tied in front of her. She is being led onto a small TRANSPORT SHIP. She looks back and notices two hooded figures walking by. The figures look up at Katara and we see it is SOKKA and AANG. Sokka nods at her and they continue to walk past.

EXT. OVER THE OCEAN - DAY

Sokka and Aang are soaring high in the air on Appa. They watch as Katara’s transport ship heads toward an ENORMOUS OFFSHORE RIG. Aang looks worried.

SOKKA
She’ll be fine, Aang. Katara knows
what she’s doing.

Appa peels off into the sky.

EXT. OFFSHORE PRISON RIG - DAY

Katara and a few other prisoners are being escorted onto the RIG. They are dressed in drab prison garb. The prison rig is essentially a giant stationary shipyard in the middle of the ocean. It is bisected by a giant wall. On one side of the wall is the PRISON YARD, on the other is the SHIPYARD.

Several enormous Fire Nation ships are in various stages of construction. The prisoners are greeted by THE WARDEN, a creepy-looking Firebender.

THE WARDEN
Earthbenders, it is my pleasure to welcome you aboard my modest shipyard. I am your warden. I prefer to think of you not as prisoners but as honored guests, and I hope you come to think of me as your humble and caring host. You will succeed here if you simply abide--

PRISONER
(COUGHS)

Lightning-fast, the Warden shoots a FIREBALL at the prisoner. The prisoner jumps back, narrowly avoiding the flames. There is a SCORCH MARK where he was standing.

THE WARDEN
What kind of guest dishonors his host by interrupting him? Take him below. One week in solitary will improve his manners.

A few guards escort the prisoner away.

THE WARDEN (CONT’D)
Simply treat me with the courtesy I give you and we’ll get along famously.

The Warden turns to leave. Then:

THE WARDEN (CONT'D)
You will notice, Earthbenders, that this rig is made entirely of metal. You are miles away from any rock or earth. So if you have any illusions about employing that brutish savagery that passes for Bending among you people, forget them. It is impossible. Good day.

EXT. PRISON YARD - DAY

Katara is led into the prison. Since it’s surrounded by water, there are no walls. The prison consists of a giant yard that has a LARGE DINING AREA off to one side. We see several VENTILATION SHAFTS that are identical to the ones at the mine - only much larger.

A few prisoners are being led into the shipyard side of the rig to work on the Fire Nation ships.

HARU (O.S.)
Katara?

Katara rushes up to Haru.

KATARA
Haru!

HARU
What are you doing here?

KATARA
It’s my fault you were captured. I came to rescue you.

HARU
So, you got yourself arrested?

KATARA
It was the only way to find you.

HARU
You’ve got guts, Katara, I’ll give you that. Come on, there’s someone I want you to meet.

INT. DINING AREA - DAY

Haru and Katara enter the dining area - an open-air structure covered by a large roof. Most of the prisoners are eating dinner. Haru leads Katara to TYRO, a broad-chested Earthbender sitting with several other men. It’s clear he commands respect.

HARU
Katara, this is my father, Tyro. Dad, this is Katara.

KATARA
It’s an honor to meet you.

Tyro looks at Katara, a helpless fourteen-year old. He smiles at her.

TYRO
Have some dinner, Katara.

Katara looks at it.

KATARA
(GROSSED OUT SOUND)

TYRO
It’s not as bad as it looks.

Katara takes a bowl of PRISON GRUEL and begins eating. She makes a disgusted face.

TYRO (CONT’D)
It’s still pretty bad, though.

Another EARTHBENDER prisoner walks up to Tyro.

EARTHBENDER
Tyro, the prisoners are complaining there aren’t enough blankets to go around.

TYRO
I’ll talk to the guards. In the meantime, make sure the elderly are taken care of. The rest of us will simply have to hope for warmer weather.

KATARA
If you don’t mind me asking, what’s your escape plan?

TYRO
Excuse me?

KATARA
You know, the plan to get everyone off the rig. What is it, mutiny? Sabotage?

TYRO
The plan? The plan is to survive. Wait out this war. Hope that one day some of us can get back home and forget this ever happened.

KATARA
How can you say that? You sound like you’ve already given up.

TYRO
Katara, I admire your courage. And I envy your youth. But people’s lives are at stake here. The warden is a ruthless man and he won’t stand for any rebellion. I’m sorry, but we’re powerless.

Tyro goes back to his men.

KATARA
We’ll see about that.

Katara jumps up on the dining hall table. She loudly bangs her SPOON AND BOWL together, getting everyone’s attention. The room quiets down and turns to her.

ANGLE ON: The Warden and a Fire Nation guard. The guard starts to move toward Katara, but The Warden holds up a hand and stops him. He wants to hear this.

KATARA (CONT’D)
Earthbenders. You don’t know me, but I know of you. Every child in my Water Tribe village was rocked to sleep with stories of the brave Earth Kingdom and the courageous Earthbenders who guard its borders.

Katara starts to walk from table to table. People are NUDGING EACH OTHER and POINTING AT HER.

KATARA (CONT'D)
Some of you may think that the Fire Nation has made you powerless. Yes, they have taken away your ability to bend. But they can’t take away your courage. And it is your courage they should truly fear, because it runs deeper than any mine you’ve been forced to dig, any ocean that keeps you far from home. It is the strength of your hearts that make you who you are, hearts that will remain unbroken when all rock and stone has eroded away.

Katara is really on a roll now. Everyone is staring at her, rapt.

KATARA (CONT'D)
The time to fight back is now. I can tell you, the Avatar has returned! So, remember your courage, Earthbenders. Let us fight for our freedom!

Katara breathlessly finishes. Long beat of total silence. Then, from the bench below her.

PRISONER
(COUGHS)

No one responds. Katara gets down from the table.

ANGLE ON: The Warden, who watches Katara slink off. With an evil grin, he exits.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PRISON YARD - NIGHT

Katara is asleep on a bedroll in the prison yard. A hand shakes her awake. It’s AANG. He motions to her to be quiet, takes her hand, and guides her away.

EXT. PRISON YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Aang leads Katara to a LOADING AREA surrounded by CRATES. Sokka is there, waiting on a floating Appa.

SOKKA
Your twelve hours are up. Where’s Haru? We’ve got to get out of here.

Katara starts walking toward Appa. Suddenly, she stops.

KATARA
I can’t.

SOKKA
We don’t have much time. There are guards everywhere, get on!

A beat-- Katara doesn’t move.

AANG
Katara, what’s wrong?

KATARA
I’m not leaving. I’m not giving up on these people.

Off of Aang and Sokka’s astonished looks we FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. PRISON YARD - NIGHT

Sokka and Aang are now off Appa, arguing with Katara.

SOKKA
What do you mean you’re not leaving?

KATARA
We can’t abandon these people. There has to be a way to help them!

Aang turns to Sokka.

AANG
Maybe she’s right. What do you say, Sokka?

SOKKA
I say you’re both crazy.

Suddenly, a SHIFT IN THE LIGHT alerts the three kids. Someone is coming.

SOKKA (CONT’D)
Last chance. We need to leave, now!

KATARA
No.

Sokka shakes his head in utter disbelief.

SOKKA
I hate when you get like this. Come on, we better hide.

Before leaving, Aang whispers to Appa, who flies off into the night. The three slink off between some crates. Just then, two Fire nation soldiers arrive on the scene, using Firebending to make torches in the palms of their hands. One points up at the sky.

FIRE NATION SOLDIER #1
Look!

CUT TO:

EXT. PRISON YARD - MOMENTS LATER

The Fire Nation soldiers stand before the warden.

THE WARDEN
Tell me exactly what you saw.

FIRE NATION SOLDIER #1
Well, sir, it looked like a flying bison.

THE WARDEN
What?

FIRE NATION SOLDIER #2
It was a giant flying buffalo, sir. With an empty saddle.

THE WARDEN
Which was it? A buffalo or a bison?

The two soldiers look at each other, confused.

FIRE NATION SOLDIER #1
I’m not sure what the difference is. But that’s not really the point, is it, sir?

THE WARDEN
I’ll decide what the point is, fool!

The Warden throws the hapless soldier off the side of the rig into the water. The other solider looks frightened.

THE WARDEN (CONT’D)
You. Wake up the captain. Search the entire rig.

The Warden starts to walk away.

FIRE NATION SOLDIER #2
Sir?

THE WARDEN
What?

FIRE NATION SOLDIER #2
That was the captain you just threw overboard. So...

THE WARDEN
Then wake up someone I haven’t thrown overboard and search the rig. There’s something going on here, and I don’t like it.

EXT. PRISON YARD - NIGHT

Aang, Katara, Momo, and Sokka are huddled behind some CRATES. They have so far avoided detection.

SOKKA
We don’t have much time. What are we going to do?

AANG
I wish I knew how to make a hurricane.

Sokka and Katara look at him, intrigued.

AANG (CONT’D)
The warden would run away and we’d steal his keys.

SOKKA
Wouldn’t he just take his keys with him?

AANG
I’m just tossing ideas around.

KATARA
I tried talking the Earthbenders into fighting back, but it didn’t work. If there was just a way to help them help themselves.

SOKKA
(thinking)
For that they’d need some earth or some rock. Something they can bend...

KATARA
But this entire place is made of metal.

AANG
(getting an idea)
No it’s not. Look at the smoke.

Aang points to a large SMOKE STACK on the shipyard side of the prison rig. SMOKE is billowing out of it.

AANG
I bet they’re burning coal. In other words... earth.

EXT. PRISON YARD - DAWN

Katara is standing lookout beside one of the large VENTILATION SHAFTS, which has been jimmied open. Sokka climbs out of the vent, covered in dust.

KATARA
It’s almost dawn, we’re running out of time. You sure this is going to work?

NOTE: During this explanation, we zoom in on what Sokka is explaining with CSI-style close-ups.

SOKKA
It should. These vents reminded me of our little trick back at the village. We’re going to do the same thing, but on a much bigger scale.

Sokka dusts himself off while explaining.

SOKKA (CONT'D)
There’s a huge deposit of coal at the base of the silo.

ZOOM IN ON: coal deposit inside silo.

SOKKA (CONT’D)
And the whole system is ventilated.

ZOOM IN ON: several ventilation ducts on the inside of the silo.

SOKKA (CONT’D)
Aang closed off all the vents except one.

ZOOM IN ON: all the ventilation ducts, slamming shut, except one.

SOKKA (CONT’D)
When he does his Airbending, the coal only has one place to go...

ZOOM THROUGH: open ventilation shaft, taking a few twists and turns, up to where Sokka and Katara are talking.

SOKKA (CONT’D)
Right back here.

FIRE NATION SOLDIER #2
There’s the intruder!

Several Fire Nation soldiers quickly surround Katara and Sokka. The Warden approaches. Sokka holds up his BOOMERANG, pitifully outmatched.

SOKKA
Stay back! I’m warning you!

The ruckus has attracted the attention of several Earthbenders, including HARU and TYRO.

TYRO
Katara, stop! You can’t win this fight.

THE WARDEN
Listen to him well, child. You’re one mistake away from dying where you stand.

The Fire Nation soldiers slowly close in on Katara and Sokka. Things look bad. Suddenly, there’s a LOW RUMBLING underneath their feet that gets louder and louder. Everyone looks toward the VENTILATION SHAFT. A FOUNTAIN OF COAL spills into the prison yard. Aang blasts out of the pile and stands on it.

AANG
(COUGHS)

The COAL PILE separates the Fire Nation soldiers from the Earthbender prisoners. Aang, Katara, and Sokka are caught in the middle.

KATARA
Here’s your chance, Earthbenders. Take it! Your fate is in your own hands.

Everyone tenses up. Katara looks at the Earthbenders hopefully. Haru and Tyro look conflicted. Long, tense beat. The silence is broken by the Warden’s HOWLING LAUGHTER.

THE WARDEN
Foolish girl, you thought a few inspirational words and some coal would change these people? Look at these blank, hopeless faces. Their spirits were broken a long time ago.
(MORE)

THE WARDEN(CONT'D)

Oh, but you still believe in them? How sweet. They’re a waste of your energy, little girl.

Katara looks at the Earthbenders. No response from them. Her entire body sags. She’s given up. There’s nothing more to do.

THE WARDEN (CONT’D)
You’ve failed.

The Warden starts to walk away. Suddenly - PLINK! - a piece of coal nails him in the back of the head. The Warden turns around, enraged. Standing before him is HARU. He has three PIECES OF COAL floating above his hand.

The Warden shoots both fists from his hips and a TRAIL OF FLAME arcs towards Haru. Right before it hits him, a WALL OF COAL rises up and blocks the flame - saving Haru’s life. Haru looks over to see that Tyro has bent the wall of coal to save his son’s life.

THE WARDEN (CONT’D)
Show no mercy!

Several Firebenders shoot a volley of flames toward the Earthbenders. In response, five Earthbenders (including Haru and Tyro) Earthbend a large WALL OF COAL that protects them from the flame. The flame hits the wall of coal and ignites it, forming a WALL OF FIRE.

Tyro grimaces in concentration. He rears his hands above his head.

TYRO
For the Earth Kingdom! Attack!

Tyro ROARS and slams both his hand onto the ground. This action explodes the wall of flaming coal outward towards the Firebenders, who scramble for cover. Several Earthbenders start shooting balls of coal at the Firebenders, who are now just trying to stay alive.

Tyro then sweeps his arms upward. A large amount of the coal rises into the air. Haru raises his arms and also concentrates on the coal. It squeezes into itself until it forms a GIANT COMPACT BALL. Father and son sweep their arms towards the prison wall. The giant wrecking ball smashes through the wall, leaving an obvious ESCAPE ROUTE. All the Earthbenders start cheering.

TYRO (CONT’D)
Get to the ship! We’ll hold them off!

All of the Earthbenders start running toward the escape route.

THE WARDEN
Do not let them escape!

The warden starts Firebending an enormous FIREBALL. Aang, seeing this, decides to take action. He spins between his hands a CYCLONE OF AIR. It’s moving incredibly fast.

AANG
Guys, throw me some coal!

Sokka and Katara start dropping individual pieces of coal between Aang’s hands. The cyclone of air shoots the coal at the warden (like a machine gun). The warden gets absolutely pummeled by Aang’s attack. The fireball disappears.

Meanwhile, Haru and Tyro and a few other Earthbenders have formed a WALL OF COAL. They push the wall toward the Firebenders (who are looking pretty beat up). All the Firebenders and the warden are being pushed towards the edge of the ship - and the water.

THE WARDEN
No! Please! I can’t swim!

TYRO
Don’t worry, I hear cowards float.

Tyro and the other Earthbenders make a final push, knocking the Firebenders and the warden off the rig and into the water. Steam rises up around them as they tread water.

EXT. FIRE NAVY SHIP - DAY

The Earthbenders have commandeered a Fire Nation ship. They are sailing away from the prison rig, which is SMOKING in the distance. Everyone is celebrating. Appa has returned, and is waiting on the deck. Katara is preparing to leave. Haru and Tyro approach her.

HARU
I want to thank you for saving me.
For saving us.

KATARA
All it took was a little coal.

HARU
It wasn’t the coal, Katara. It was
you.

TYRO
Thank you for helping me find my courage, Katara of the Water Tribe. My family - and everyone here - owes you much.

Tyro bows. Katara looks both embarrassed and delighted.

KATARA
So, I guess you’re going home now.

TYRO
Yes. To take back my village.

Tyro turns toward the crowd.

TYRO (CONT'D)
To take back all of our villages! The Fire Nation will regret the day they set foot on our land!

Huge CHEERS from the crowd. Tyro exits.

HARU
Come with us.

KATARA
I can’t. Your mission is to take back your home. Ours is to get Aang to the North Pole.

Haru looks over at Aang, who is sitting on top of Appa.

HARU
That’s him, isn’t it? The Avatar.

Katara looks over at Aang. He is AIRBENDING a FEATHER that keeps tickling Sokka’s ear. She nods.

HARU (CONT’D)
Katara, thank you for bringing my father back to me. I never thought I’d see him again.

Katara looks away, her thoughts turning to her mother.

HARU (CONT’D)
I only wish there was some way...

KATARA
I know.

Katara’s hand instinctively goes toward her MOTHER’S NECKLACE.

KATARA (CONT’D)
My mother’s necklace. It’s gone.

EXT. PRISON YARD - DAY

Katara’s NECKLACE lies on the ground. A hand comes into frame and picks it up. Pull back to reveal the hand belongs to PRINCE ZUKO. He is standing on the prison rig as soldiers around him clean up the smoldering coal. He turns around and purposefully strides back toward his ship. He has an Avatar to catch.

END OF ACT THREE

END OF SHOW